

Sellers, Michael

S/N: 10/709,455

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending in the present application. In the Office Action mailed July 26, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 7, 8, 10, 11, 17, 18, 22-25, 30, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ehman (US 5,592,085). Claims 4-6, 9, 12-16, 19-21, and 26-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ehman in view of Friedlander (US 5,313,945).

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 18, and 24 stating that "Ehman teaches an emitter system constructed to emit an inaudible signal (of ultrasound range) having properties to reduce perception of the system noise about at least a portion of the imaging area (figure 1, numerals 129, 130; column 8, lines 29-44)." Office Action, p. 2. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Ehman teaches that a pulse generator module 121 "produces sync pulses through a serial link 128 to a wave generator and amplifier 129." Col. 8, lns. 29-31. Ehman further teaches that "[t]he wave generator produces a sinusoidal voltage which is synchronized to the frequency and phase of the received sync pulses and this waveform is output through a 50 watt, dc coupled audio amplifier. A frequency in the range of 20 Hz to 1000 Hz is produced depending on the particular object being imaged, and it is applied to a transducer 130." Col. 8, lns. 31-36. Thus, Ehman teaches that the frequency range of the signal is 20 Hz to 1000 Hz.

However, one skilled in the art will readily recognize that a sinusoidal voltage signal that is in the frequency range of 20 Hz to 1000 Hz is audible. That is, the sinusoidal voltage signal of Ehman can be heard by an imaging subject. It is well known that human hearing generally falls in the range of 20 Hz to 20,000 Hz. As stated above, the sinusoidal voltage signal taught in Ehman is in the frequency range of 20 Hz to 1000 Hz, which falls within the frequency range audible to humans. A sinusoidal voltage signal in the frequency range of 20 Hz to 1000 Hz is not inaudible or of ultrasound range as the Examiner suggests. As such, Ehman does not teach or suggest that called for in claims 1, 18, 24 and the claims that depend therefrom.

Claims 4-6, 9, 12-16, 19-21, and 26-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ehman in view of Friedlander. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner with respect to the art as applied, but in light of claims 4-6, 9, 12-16, 19-21, and 26-29 depending from what is believed otherwise allowable claims, Applicant does not believe additional remarks are necessary and, therefore, requests allowance of claims 4-6, 9, 12-16, 19-21, and 26-29 at least pursuant to the chain of dependency.

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Therefore, in light of at least the foregoing, Applicant respectfully believes that the present application is in condition for allowance. As a result, Applicant respectfully requests timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-31.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's consideration of these Amendments and Remarks and cordially invites the Examiner to call the undersigned, should the Examiner consider any matters unresolved.

Respectfully submitted,



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